

Serial No. 09/987,664
In reply to Office Action dated: January 8, 2004

Docket No. YHK-0072

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-19 are pending in the application. By the Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended, claims 20-23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because the Amendment: 1) places the claims in condition for allowance; 2) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and 3) places the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication in the Office Action, at page 3, that claims 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 18, and 23 define patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14, 16, 17, and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,011,640 to Hutton (hereinafter "Hutton"). Because Hutton fails to disclose all the features of claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a color wheel apparatus including the features of a color filter portion in which color filters for selectively transmitting red, green and blue

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colors are sequentially formed on a single circular plate in a spiral shape with respect to a rotation axis of the circular plate. Applicant respectfully submits that such features are not disclosed by Hutton.

Applicant respectfully submits that Hutton is directed to a light projection system having a color control assembly 221 including a color wheel assembly consisting of a “set of color filter elements,” namely, three color wheels 220A, 220B, 220C. (Col. 6, lines 3 and 4; Col. 13, lines 21-23; and Fig. 7). Each of the color wheels is of a distinct color, i.e., blue 220A, amber 220B, and magenta 220C. (Col. 13, line 50 – Col. 14, line 6, Figs. 9A-G). Accordingly, beam color control in the Hutton light projection system involves “complex” coordinated positioning of the three-wheel system 220 in the light beam path to produce a combined filtering effect. (Col. 13, lines 21-30, Col. 14, lines 7-19). Further, Hutton describes the filter pattern as densely concentrated (solid or substantially solid) at the center of the circular wheel and progressively less dense from the wheel center in a uniform dot matrix pattern. (Figs. 8A and 8B, and Col. 13, line 21 – Col. 14, line 20). Thus, the color wheel assembly of Hutton does not include at least the features of a color filter portion in which color filters for selectively transmitting red, green and blue colors are sequentially formed on a single circular plate in a spiral shape with respect to a rotation axis of the circular plate.

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For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable. Claim 5 defines patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 1. Claim 9, which is directed to a color-separating apparatus for a liquid crystal projector of single panel type, that includes the features of a color wheel having a color filter portion in which color filters for selectively transmitting red, green and blue lights are sequentially formed on a circular plate in concentric circles, also defines patentable subject matter for at least reasons similar to claim 1. Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10-12, and 14-19 depend from claims 1, 5, and 9, respectively, and thus are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as additional patentable features recited therein, and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Garth D. Richmond**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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